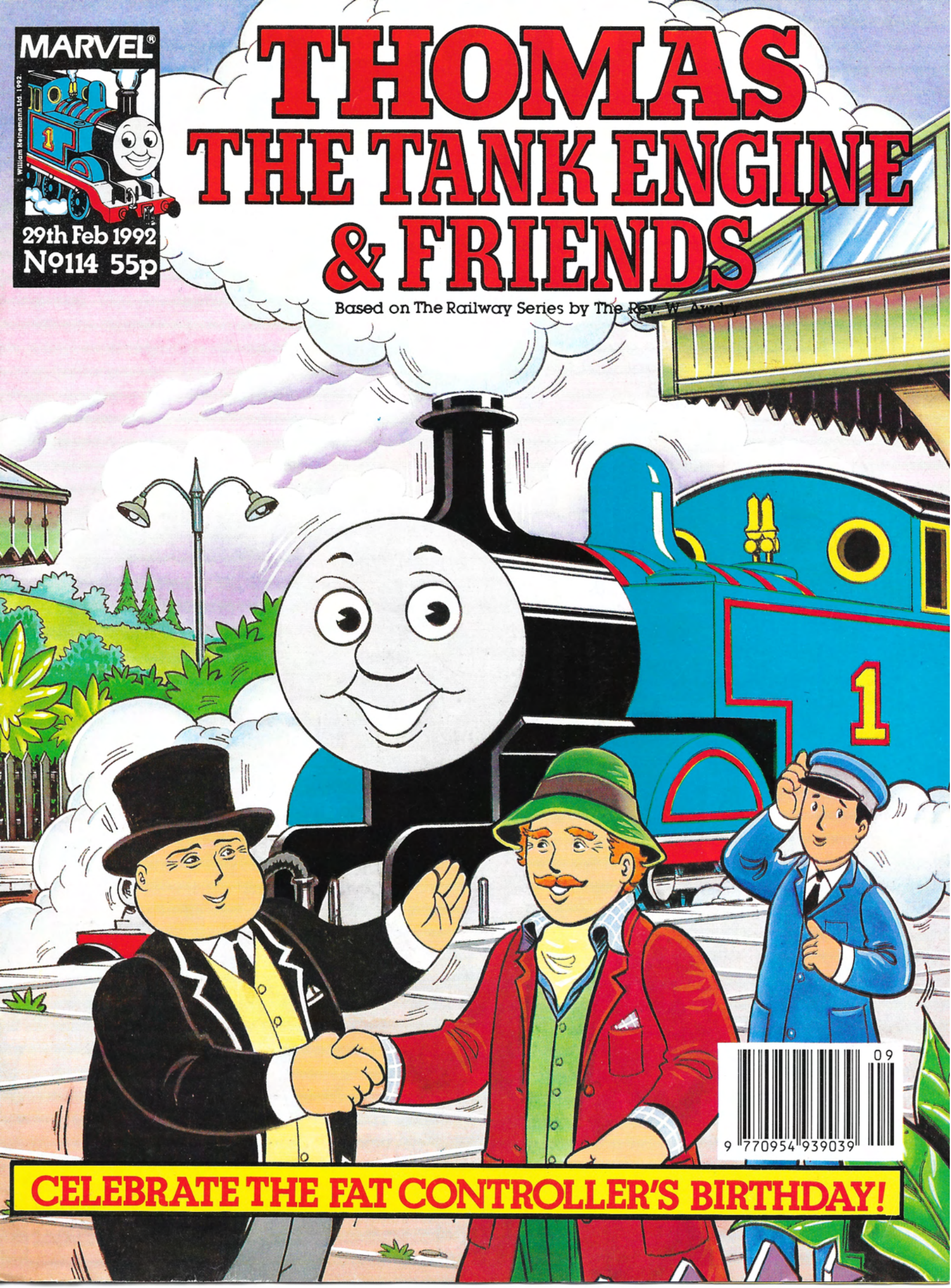
MARVEL®
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29th Feb 1992
No114 55p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry
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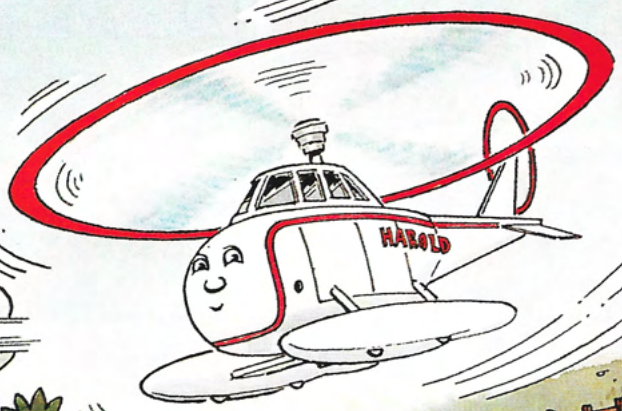
CELEBRATE THE FAT CONTROLLER'S BIRTHDAY!

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It is a very special time on the Island of Sodor as Thomas and all his friends are preparing a celebration for the Fat Controller's birthday! The Railway staff and engines are thinking very hard about a suitable present to give to the Fat Controller. In the story that begins on page three, you can find out about the surprise he receives. Peep! Peep!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!
In this splendid edition of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** we are offering more exciting prizes from *ERTL(UK) Ltd.* You could be the winner of either a **6-piece** or **4-piece playset**, or a **3-piece miniature playset** when you enter our competition! Turn to **page 13** for details!

There are brand new **STAR LETTER** (Remote control engines) prizes to be won in our next issue!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!
If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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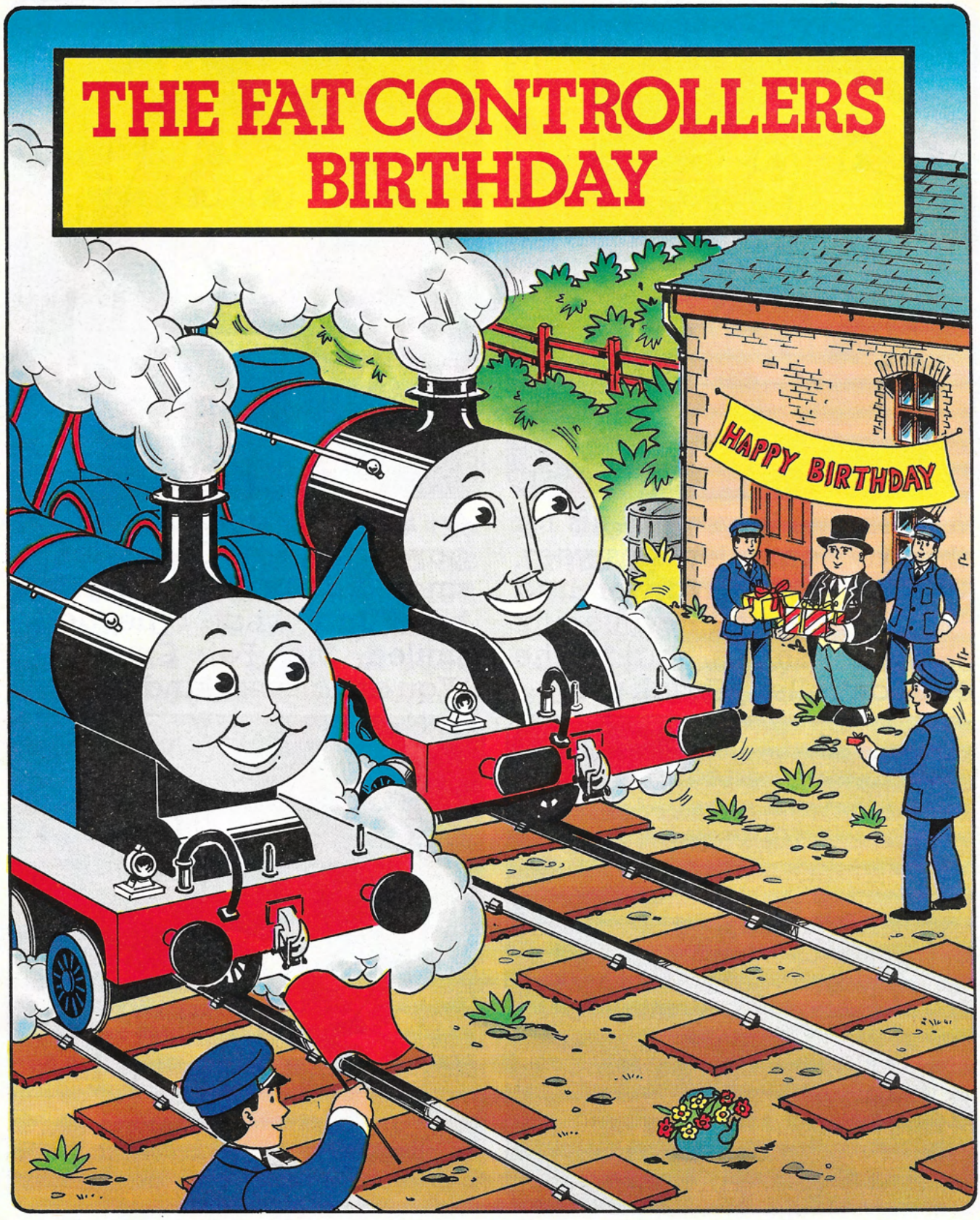
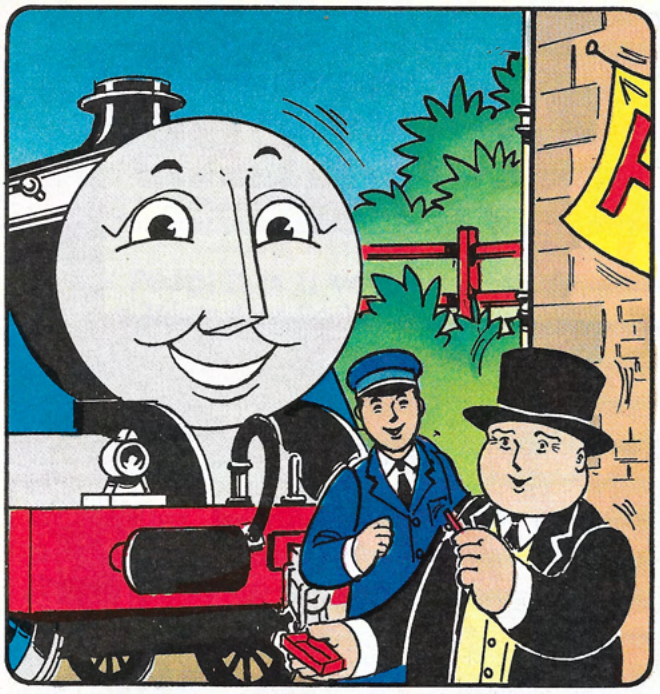
A listen and look story!

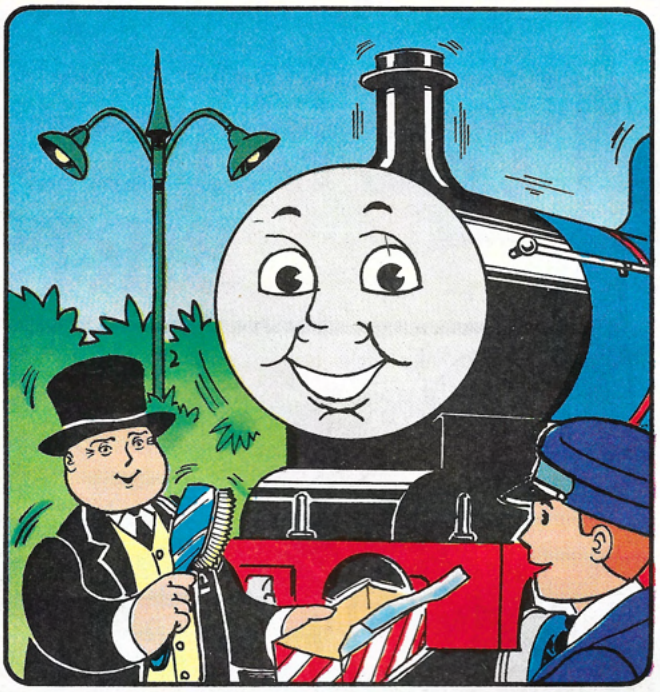


1. The Fat Controller is a very important person on the Island of Sodor Railway. It is his job to see that all the engines run efficiently and keep to their timetables!

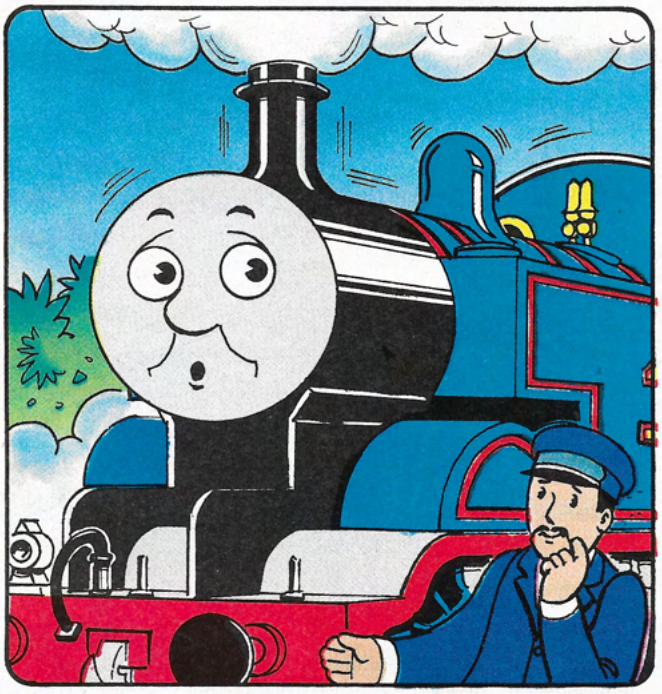
2. So each year when the Fat Controller's birthday comes round, all the engines show their appreciation for his hard work with a celebration birthday party.



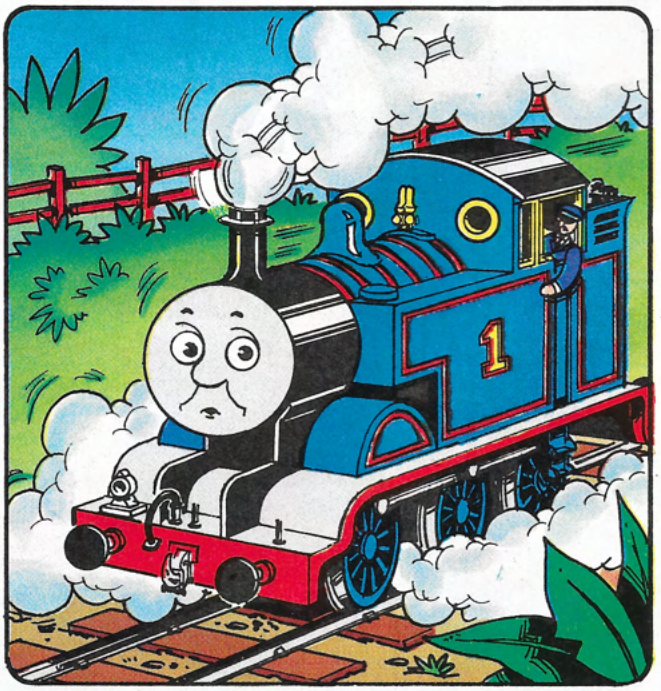
3. Everyone buys presents for the Fat Controller. This year, Gordon and his driver had bought a brand new tie-pin. "How it shines," said the Fat Controller. "Thank you!"



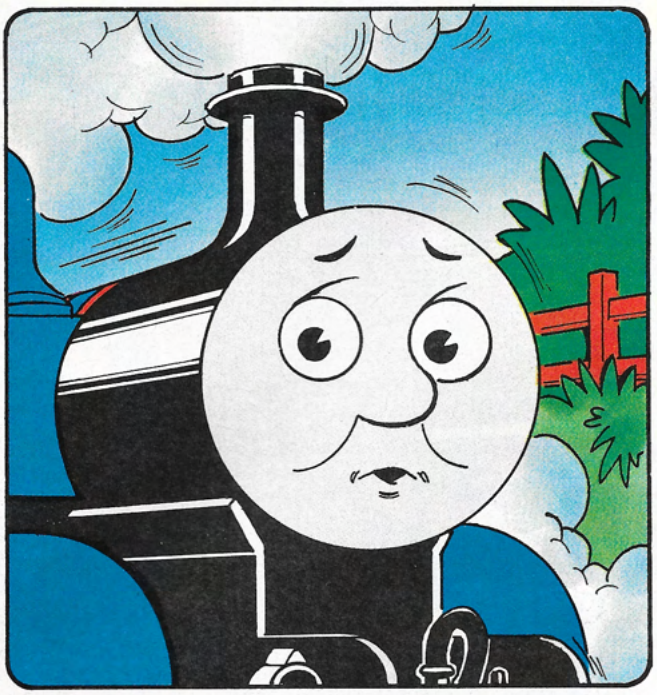
4. Edward and his driver gave the Fat Controller a smart hat brush for his top hat. "Just what I needed," smiled the Fat Controller. "You are all very kind."



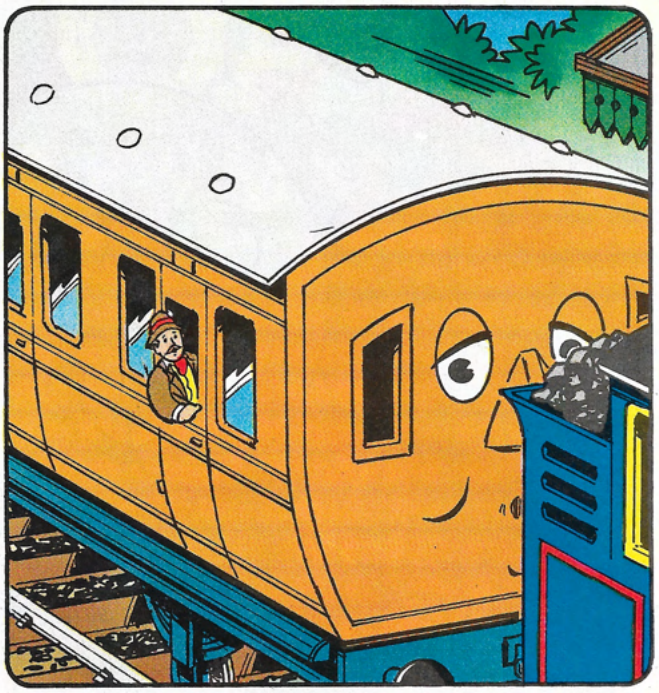
5. Thomas and his driver couldn't think of a gift to buy for the Fat Controller. "We can't get him a top hat, because he already has lots," said Thomas.



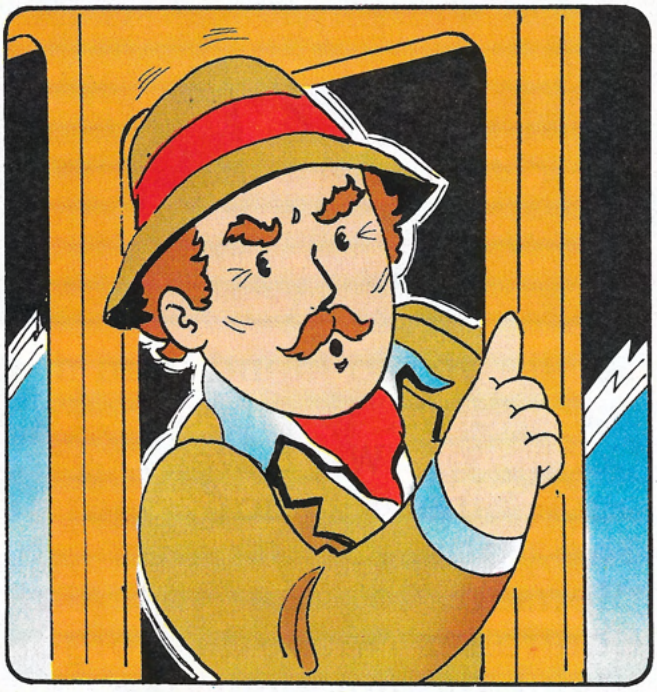
6. Thomas and his driver decided to think hard about a suitable present while they went about their work. "There must be something he'd like" said Thomas.



7. On the way back to the Station yard, Thomas and his driver were still undecided about a suitable present. They had to have an idea before the party that evening.



8. Indeed, they were both thinking so much about what to buy for the Fat Controller's birthday that they completely forgot to stop at the last station!



9. When they arrived back at the Main Station yard, Thomas and his driver realised their mistake. "Why didn't you stop at my station?" called an angry passenger.

10. "We're very sorry", apologised Thomas's driver to the man. "What's all this shouting?" asked the Fat Controller, hurrying towards them.

11. "I'm afraid we made a big mistake," Thomas's driver began to explain, but the Fat Controller suddenly let out a loud exclamation. "Goodness me!" he cried, "just look who's here!" The Fat Controller went over to the startled passenger and shook his hand and patted him on the back. The passenger looked very surprised!

12. "It's an old friend from my schooldays," laughed the Fat Controller. 'We haven't seen each other for many years." The passenger was so pleased to see the Fat Controller that he forgot about Thomas's mistake. "By bringing my friend here, you have given me the best birthday present of all," beamed the Fat Controller.

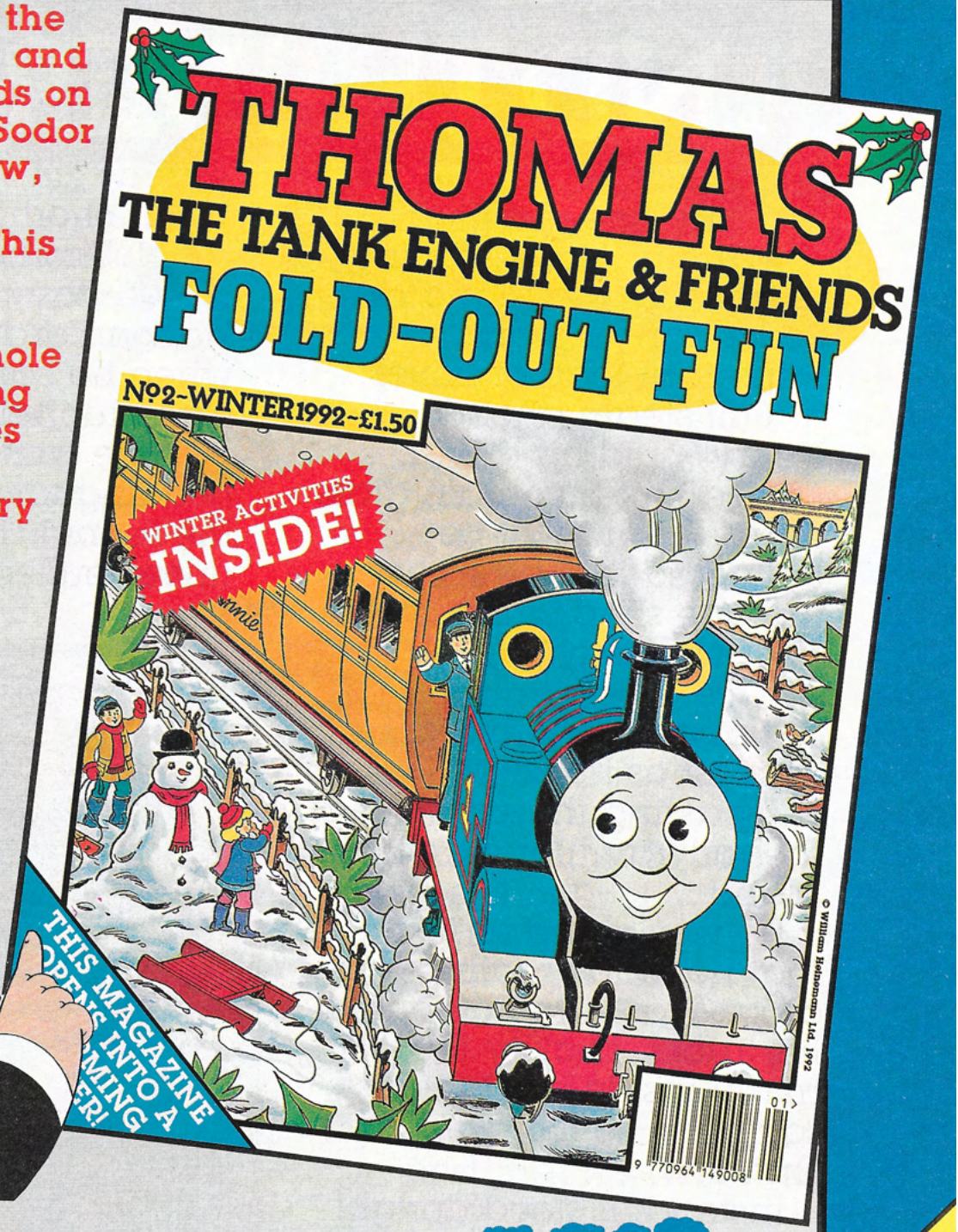
In our next issue: Troublesome twins!

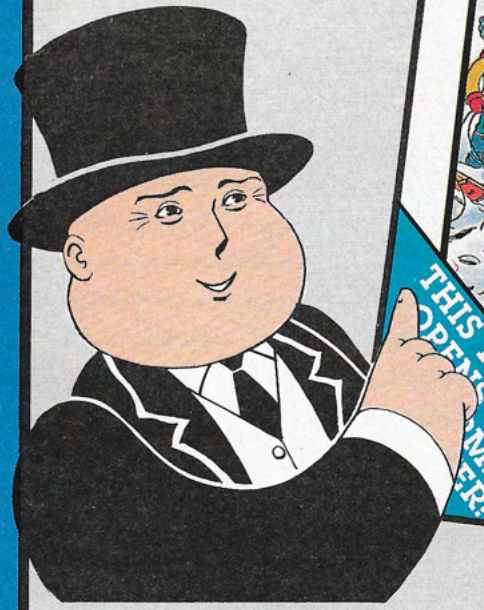
THE END

ALL ABOARD

THOMAS'S BRAND NEW MAGAZINE!

Join Thomas, the Fat Controller and all their friends on the Island of Sodor in a brand new, charming publication! This splendid magazine contains a whole host of exciting stories, puzzles and activities which all carry the theme of winter!





This unique magazine also opens into a charming poster to hang on your bedroom wall!

ON SALE NOW!

A read-aloud story!

THOMAS AND THE MIRROR!

Early one morning, Henry was steaming across the Island of Sodor carrying an important load of boxes.

"Full steam ahead, Henry!" said his driver. "These boxes contain glass mirrors that must be delivered to a new antique shop which is due to open today!"

So on Henry raced, as fast as he could, passing through one of the railway tunnels on the island.

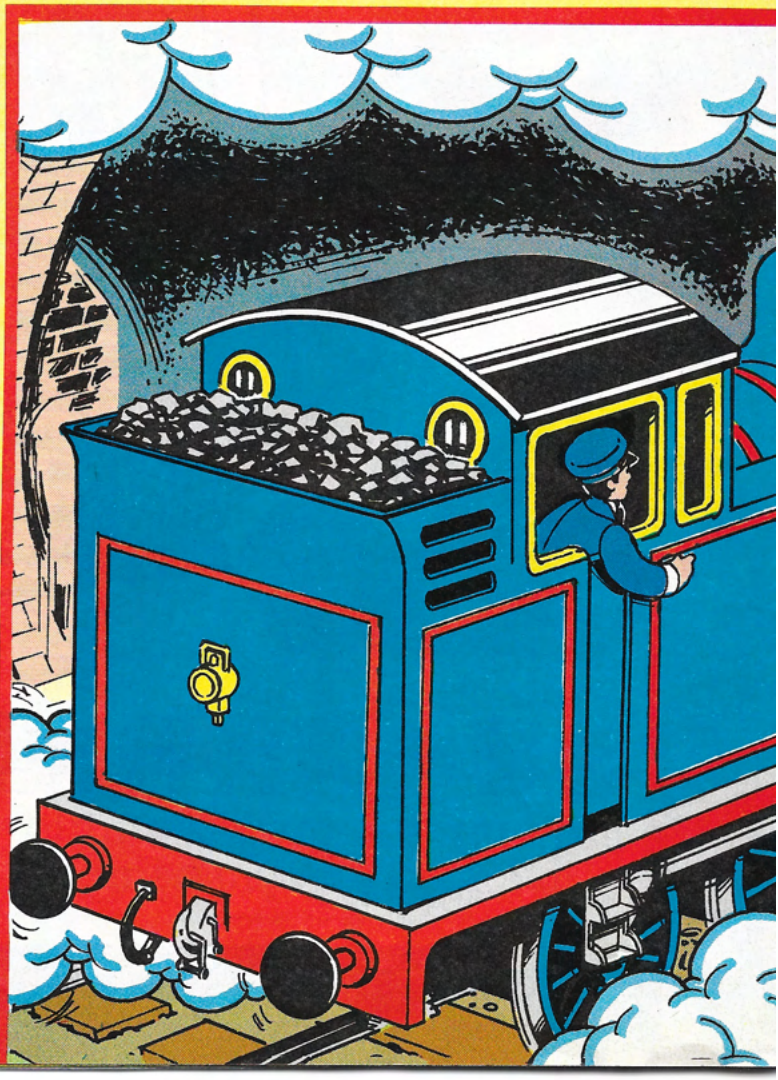
He was going so fast that he didn't realise that a box was jolted off one of his trucks. Luckily the mirror inside landed on soft earth so it didn't shatter.

Instead, it stood upright in the earth beside the dark tunnel.

Henry raced away, not realising that he had left part of his load behind.

A short time later, Thomas was on his way to the Main Station Yard to be serviced when he came to the same tunnel.

There was a train heading towards him in the tunnel. Thomas's driver pulled the brake



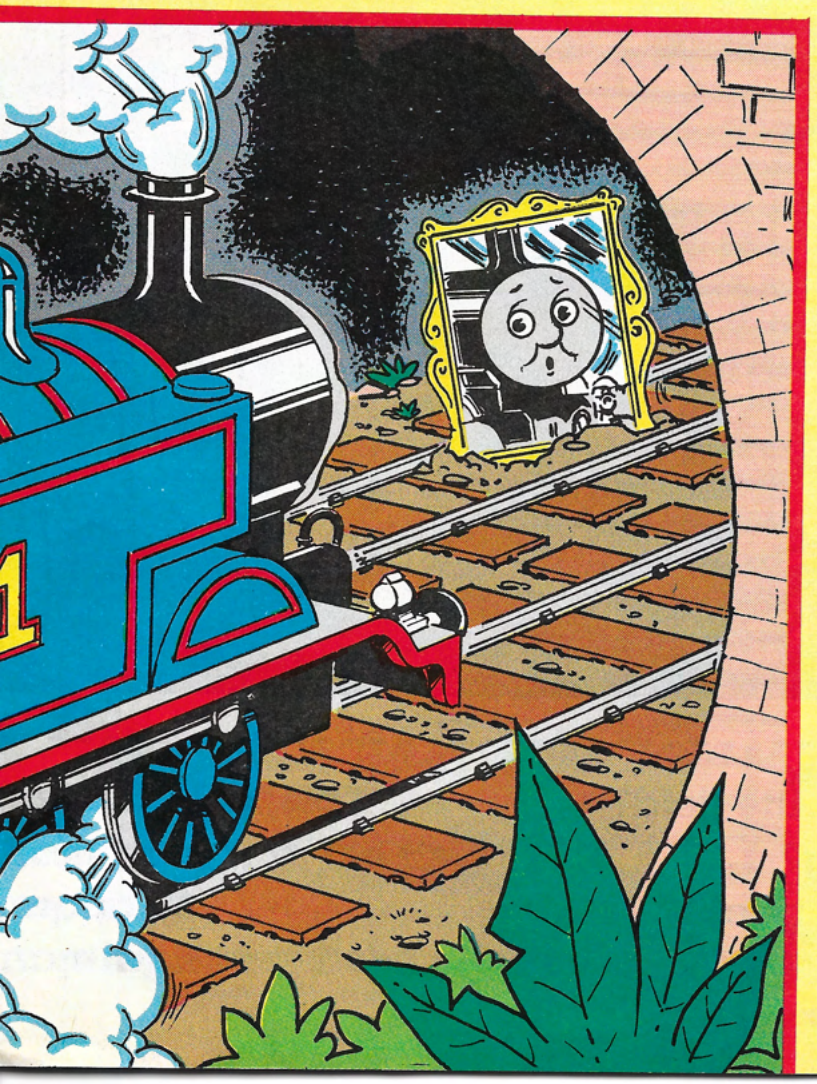
lever and the little engine came to a stop just inches away from the other train!

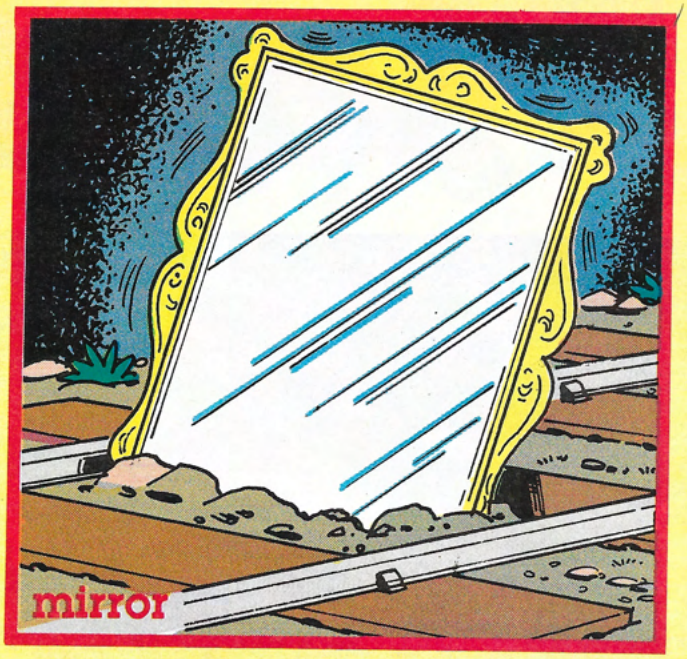
Thomas was even more surprised to see that the other engine looked exactly the same as him. It could have been his twin!

Thomas blew his whistle for the train to move. But the echo in the tunnel made it sound as if the other train was tooting back at Thomas.

"That's strange!" whispered Thomas.

"Whatever is the trouble?" said Thomas's driver as he leant out of the cab window.





Just then, Henry returned on the other line in the tunnel.

"Thank goodness the mirror is safe," he said.

"What mirror?" asked Thomas.

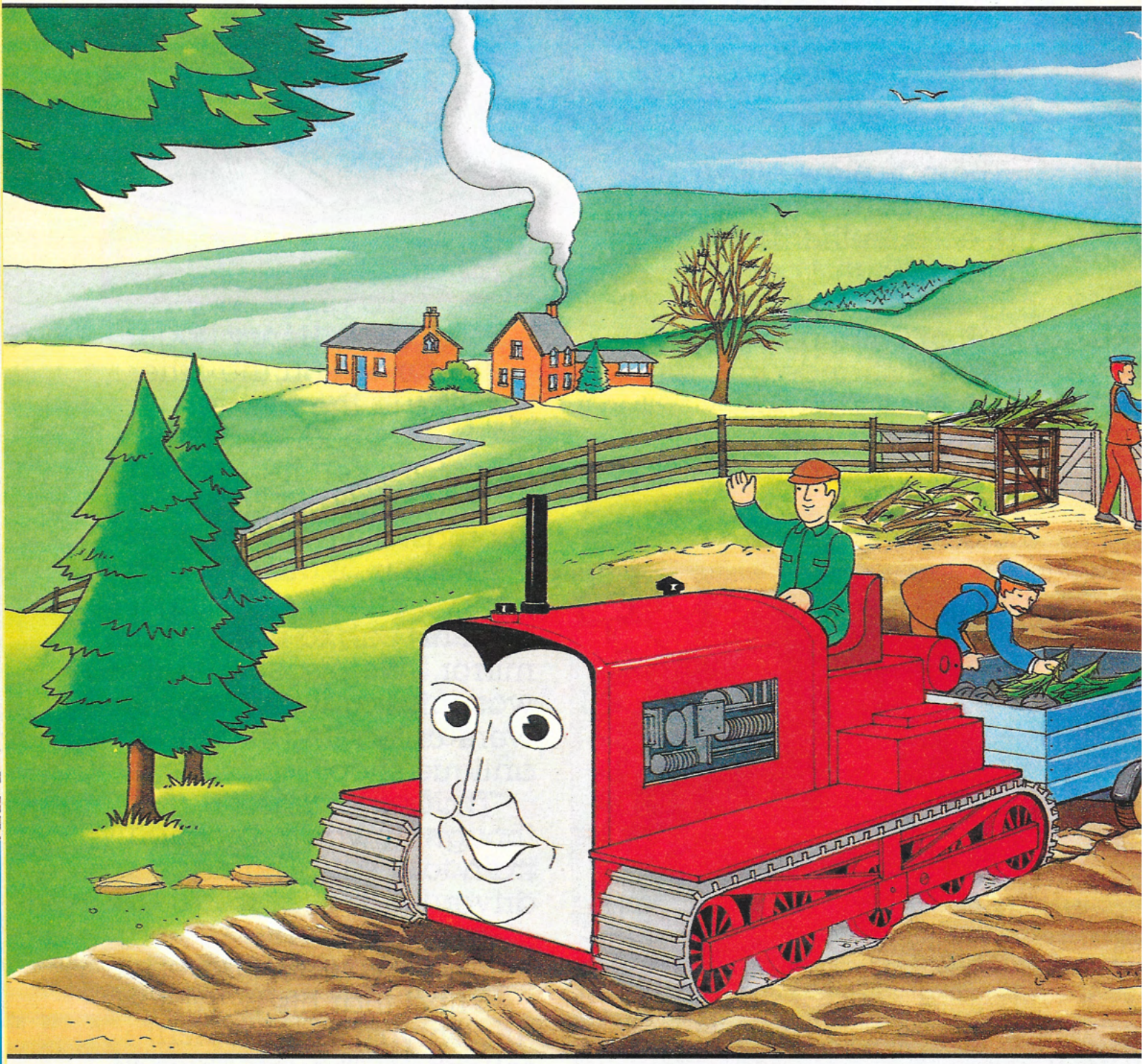
"This mirror," said Henry's driver, stepping from his cab to retrieve the mirror. "We discovered it was missing when we were unloading at the antique shop!"

"That's a surprise! I thought it was another train too!" said Thomas's driver.

Thomas was relieved to find that his twin was only a mirror reflection. Though Thomas thought that the engine in the reflection looked rather splendid!

THE END

Planting the



Which engine has stopped by the field?
How many trucks is he pulling?
What is being loaded into the trucks?
Point to the farmhouse!

Which en
How man
What are
How man

e saplings!

ine is in the field?

workers are in the field?

ney doing?

saplings have been planted?

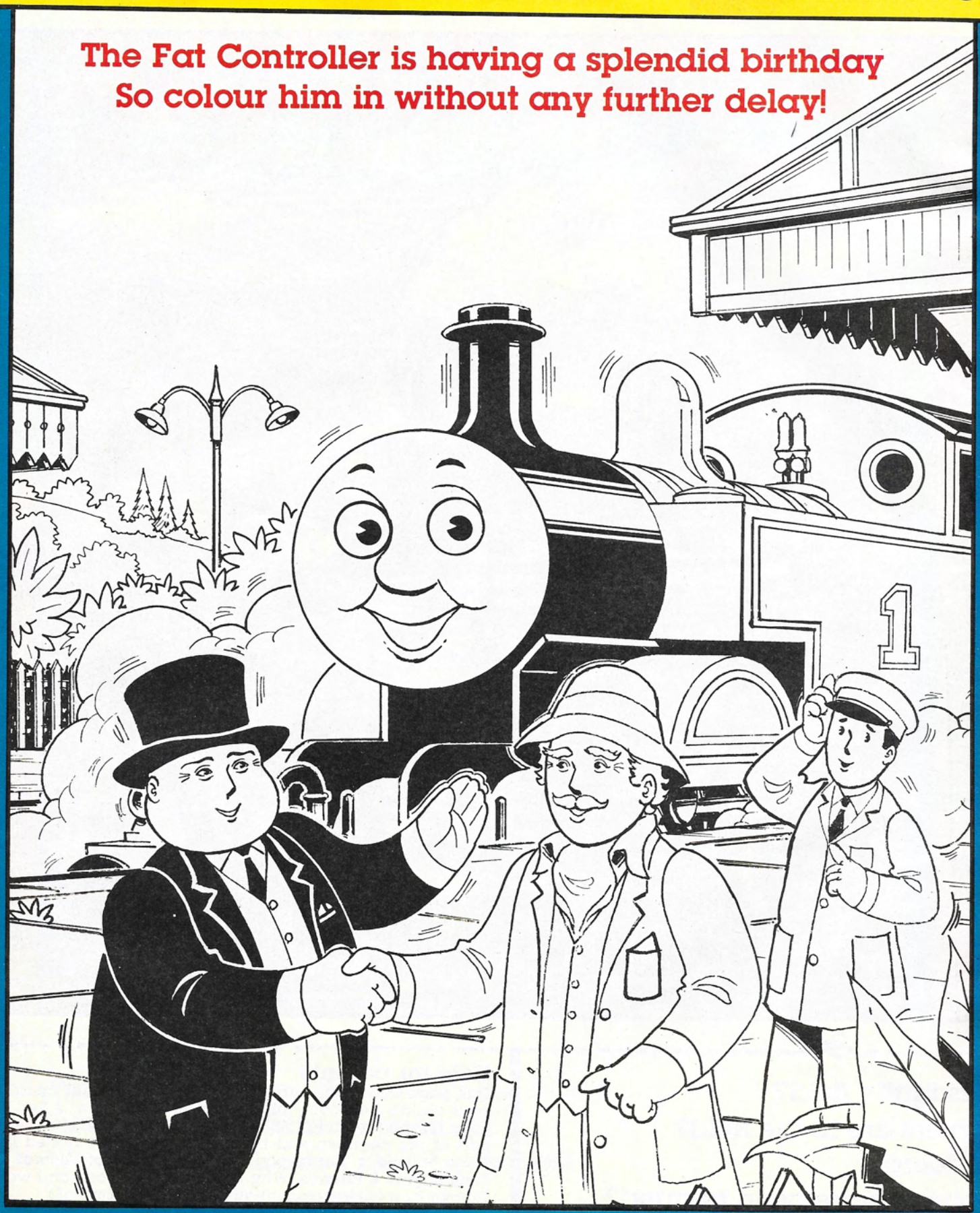
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

Next issue: Alongside the canal!

COLOURING TIME!

The Fat Controller is having a splendid birthday
So colour him in without any further delay!



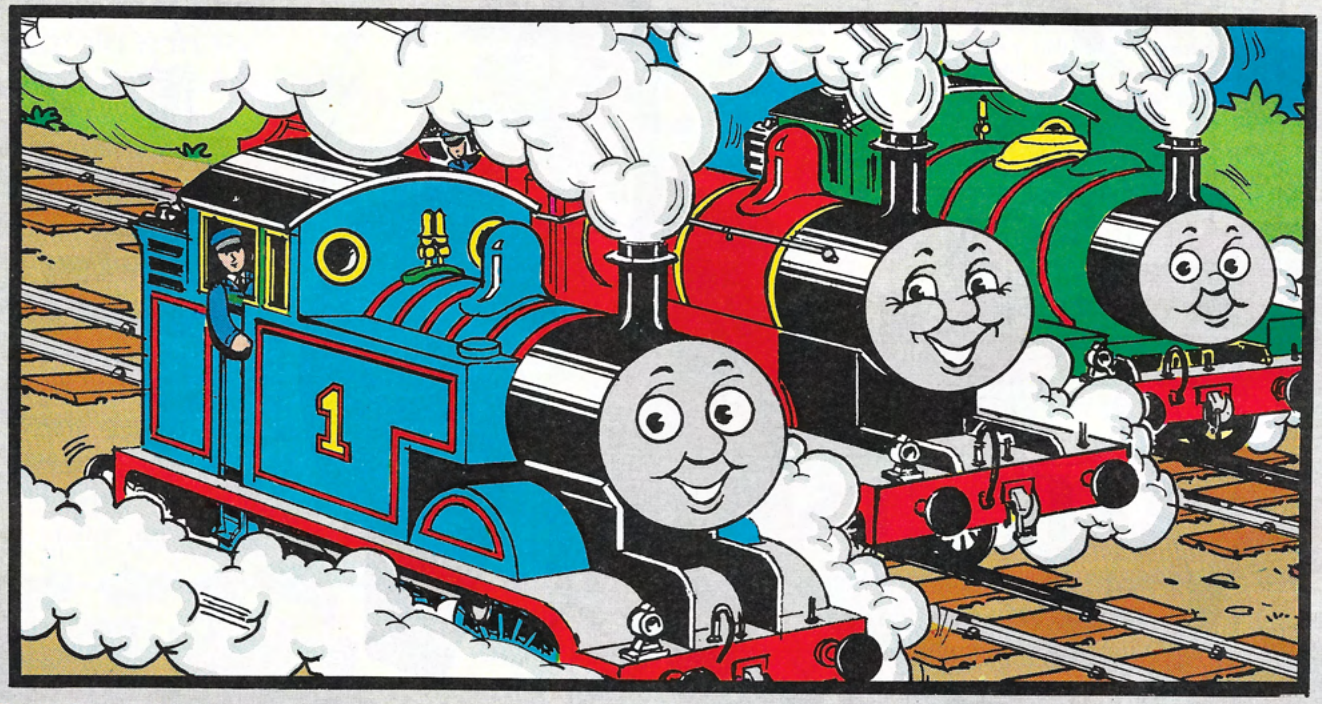
SPLENDID COMPETITION!

Win one of these super prizes from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*

1ST PRIZE:
12 x 6-piece playsets.

2ND PRIZE:
12 x 4-piece playsets.

3RD PRIZE 24 x 3-piece miniature playsets.



How to enter:

Look at the splendid picture at the bottom of this page. It shows Thomas puffing down his branch line with two of his best friends. Can you name both of Thomas's friends? Complete the sentences below by writing the names of both engines in the spaces provided and send your entries to: ***Thomas/ERTL Name the Engine Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.***

Closing date: 13th March 1992

Name _____ **Age**___

Address _____

_____

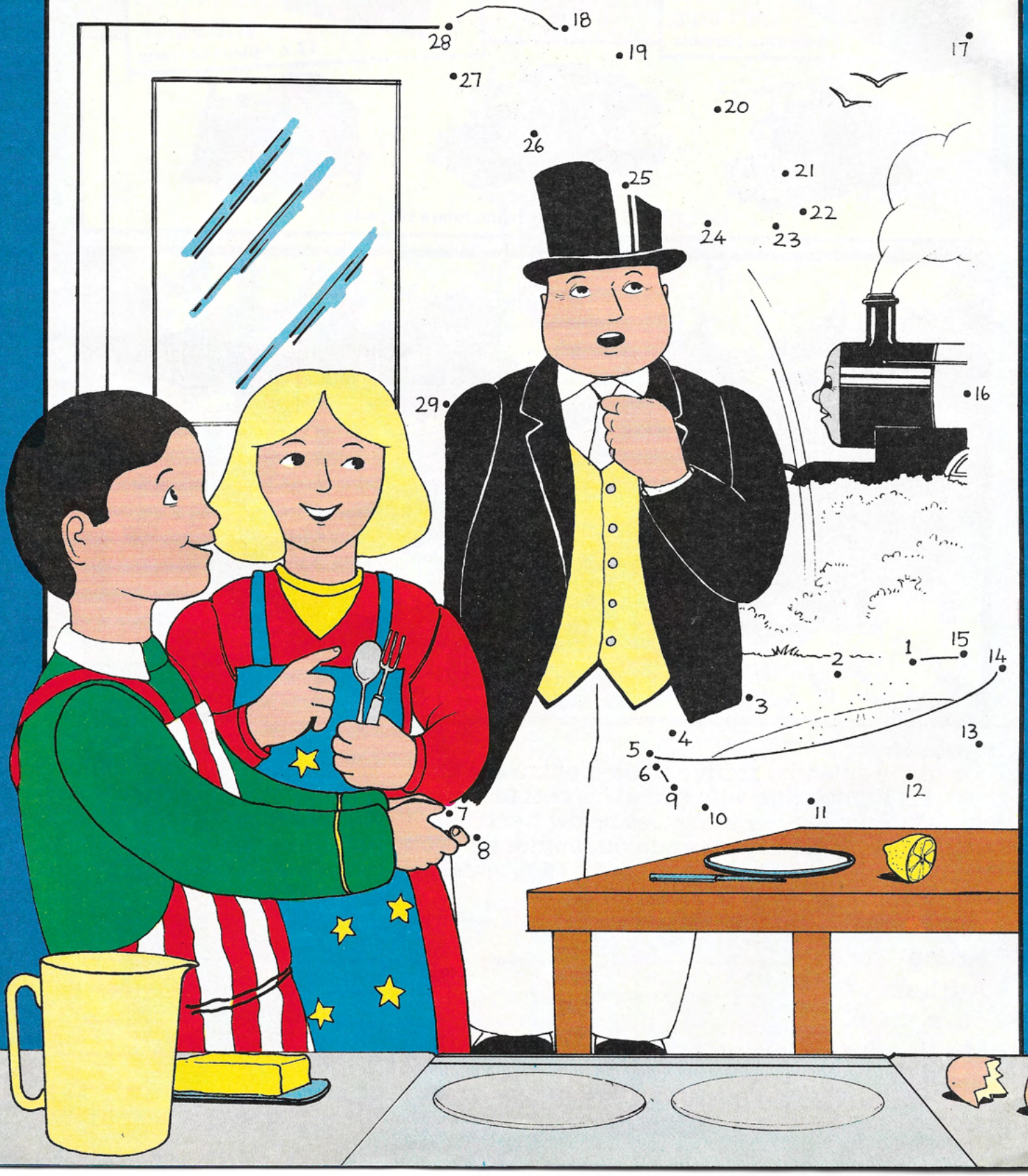
My favourite engine is _____

because _____

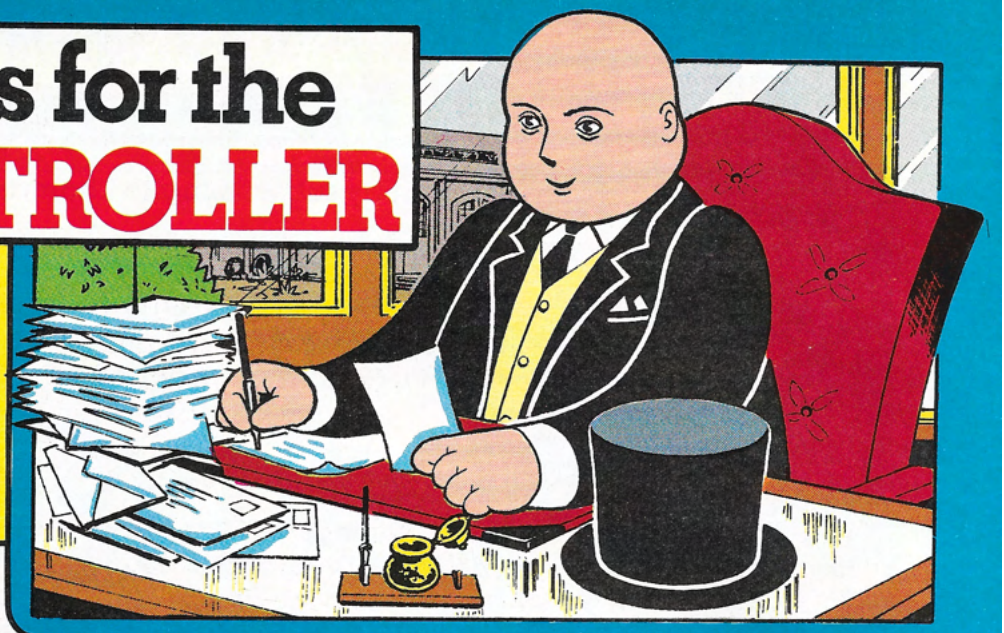
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

JOIN THE DOTS!

Upon my soul! I do declare
There's something flying through the air!
Join the dots - try to be neat
Then you'll see something nice to eat!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Henry is green,
Percy is too,
James is red and
Thomas is blue,
Harold can fly,
And I've just turned two,
Dearest Fat Controller,
We all love you!

Love from
Adam, aged 2.

We are really happy for you,
Now that you've just turned two,
Your verse has won a prize,
To write next year would be wise!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

GREAT STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Henry because he takes part in a really exciting story called **'The Flying kipper'.** What is your favourite **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** story?

Love from
Jonathan Watson,
aged 8.

*My! My! There have been so many exciting adventures on the Island of Sodor. One of my favourite stories is **'The Great Race'** when Bertie and Thomas first met each other and had a rather splendid race across the countryside.*

LONGEST RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
What is the longest railway track on the Island of Sodor?

Love from
Alan, aged 9.

The longest line on the Island of Sodor is the main line which stretches from one side of the island to the other.

BIRTHDAYS!

Sean Russell Bradley, Patrick A. Crombie (35235), Jamie Wakefield (34015), Benjamin Manch (36329), John Antony Davey (30135), Terence Giles (33518), Hannah Lines, David Lines, Mark Whittich (17913), James Glue (37029), Robert Warlow (34280), David Lloyd Keith Adam (34783) and Lawrence Evans (36574).

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

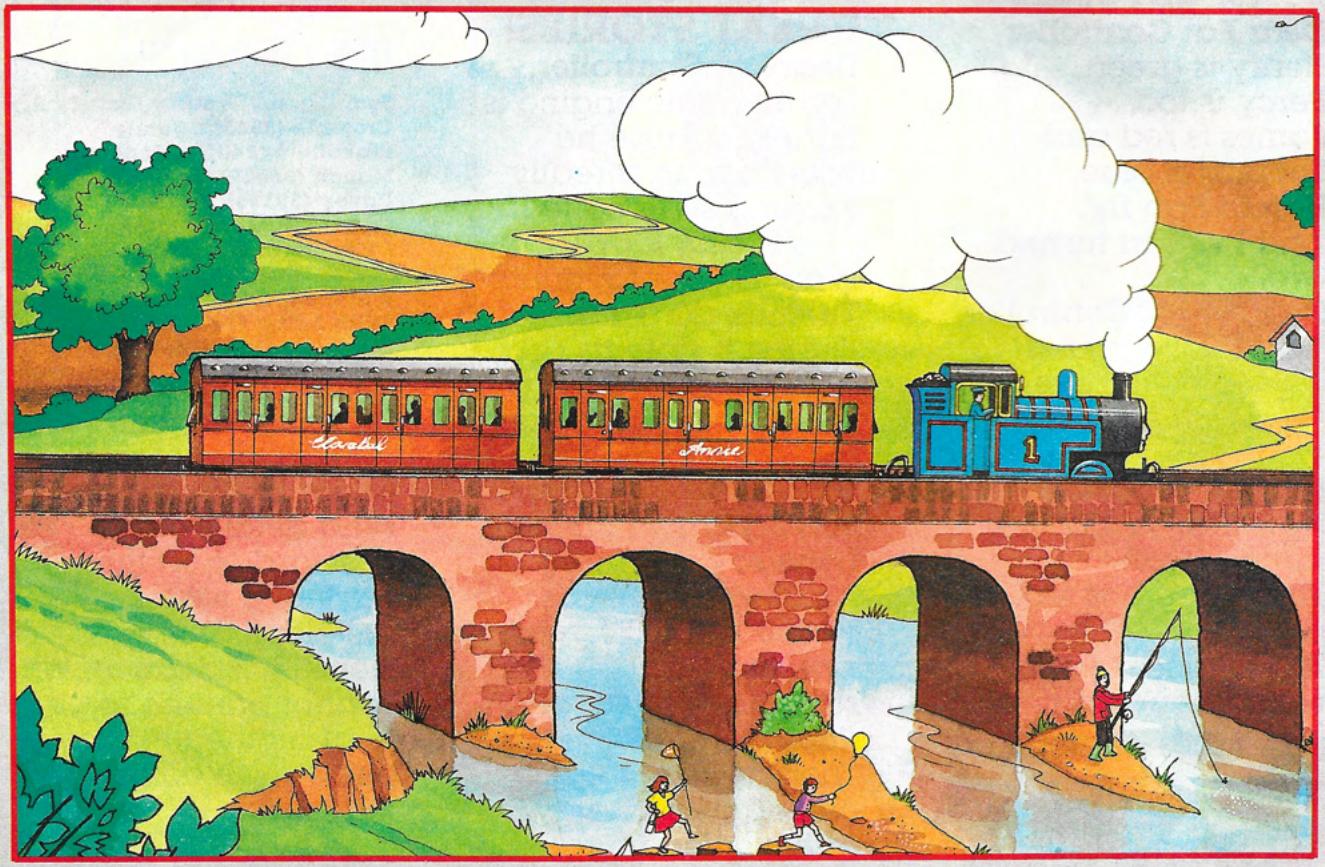
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas).

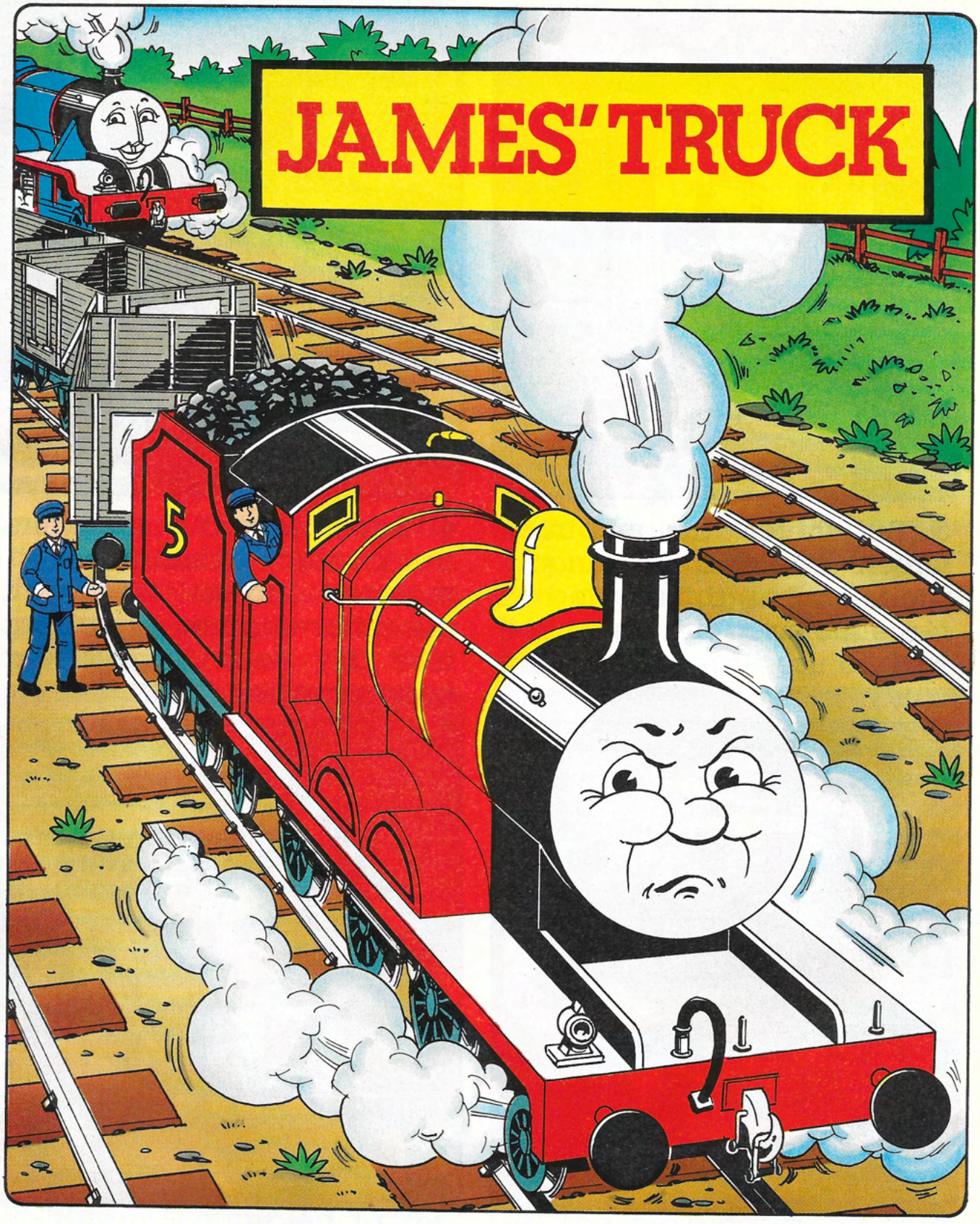
Child's name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....
.....
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

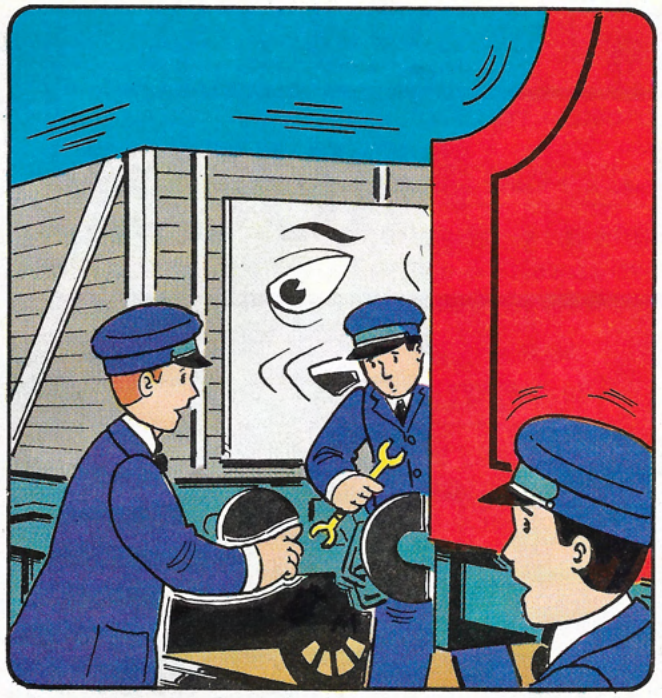
(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

A listen and look story!

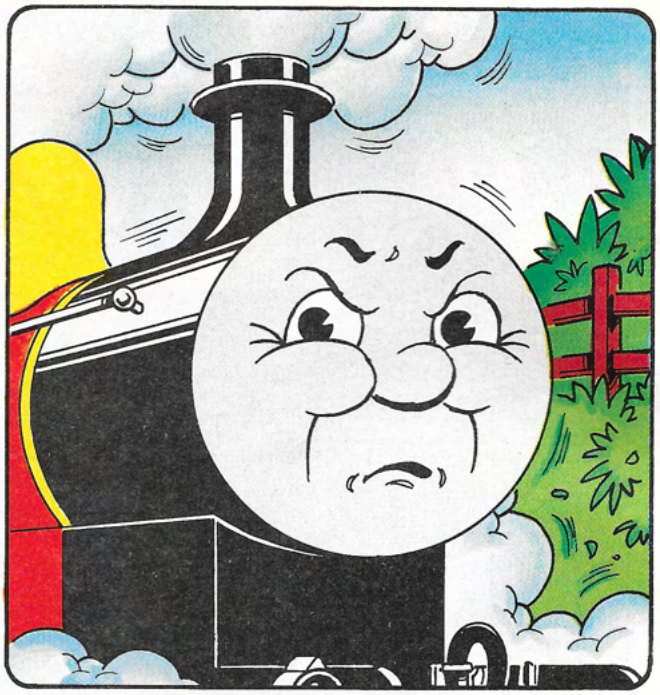


1. It was a splendid day on the Island of Sodor. James was pulling a goods train on the mainline. "Come along! Come along!" sang James to the troublesome trucks.

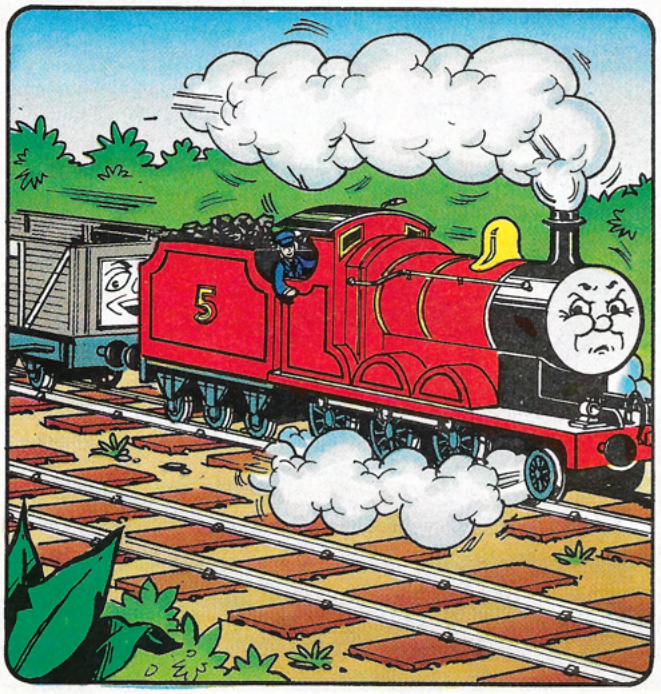
2. The trucks rattled and complained, but at last they came to the Main Station. James backed onto the siding and his guard went back to uncouple the trucks.



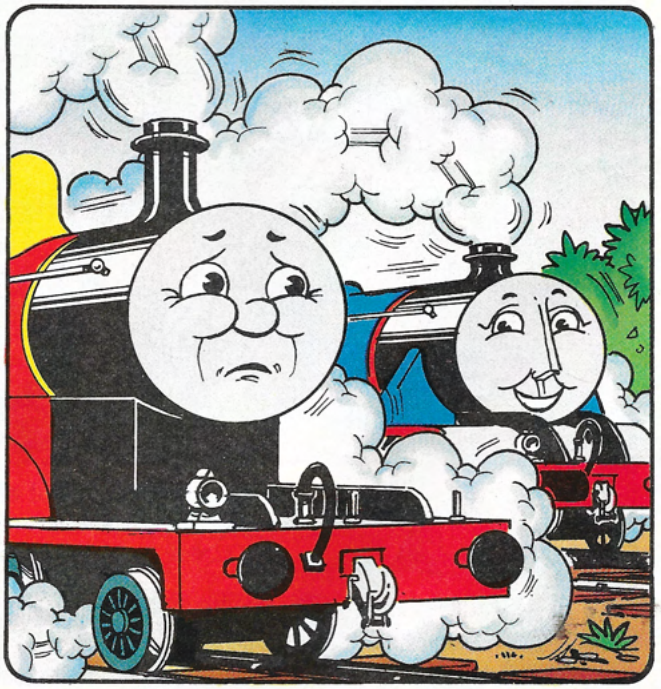
3. But there was one truck which couldn't be uncoupled. James' driver tried to force the coupling free, but it was no use. James' coupling was jammed!



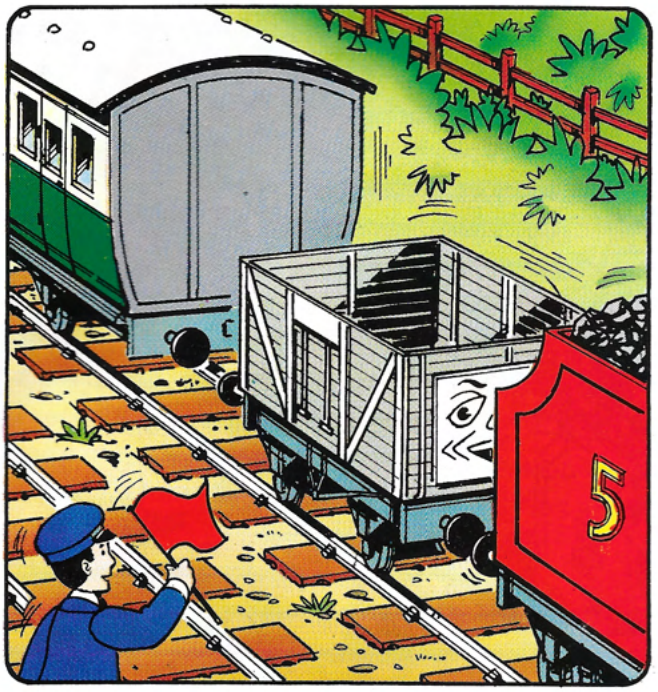
4. "I don't want a bothersome truck stuck behind me!" moaned James. "What will the other engines say about me? My next train is a passenger train!"



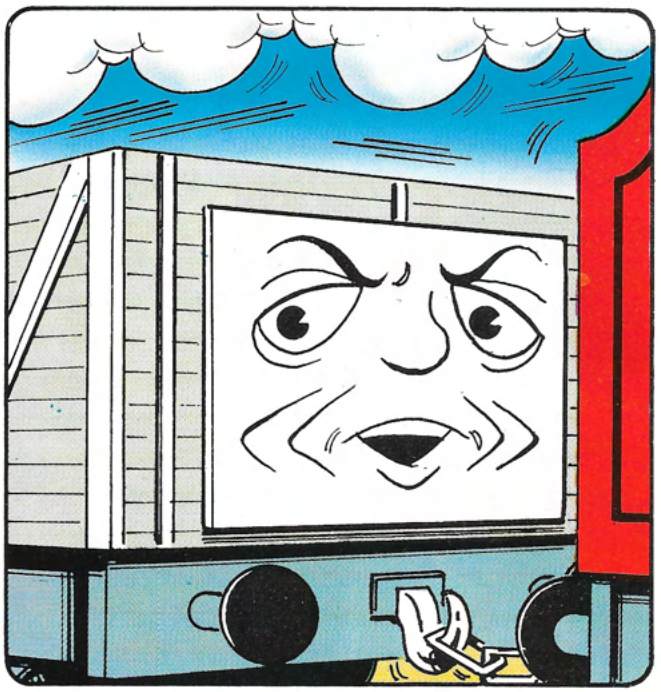
5. "I'm sorry, James," said his driver. "But there's no time to fix it now. We must collect your coaches." James met Gordon as he crossed the yard. Gordon whistled!



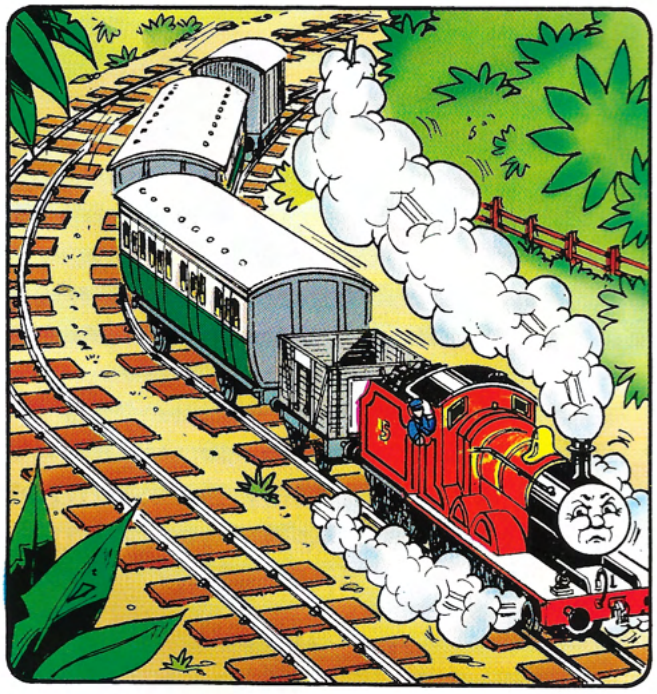
6. "Pip pip! Hullo, James!" laughed Gordon. "Where are you going with one truck?" James did not answer Gordon. He simply hurried away to collect his coaches.



7. But the coaches were very surprised. Oh, James!" they huffed proudly. "You want us to be coupled to the back of a dirty truck?" "It's stuck to me," sighed James.

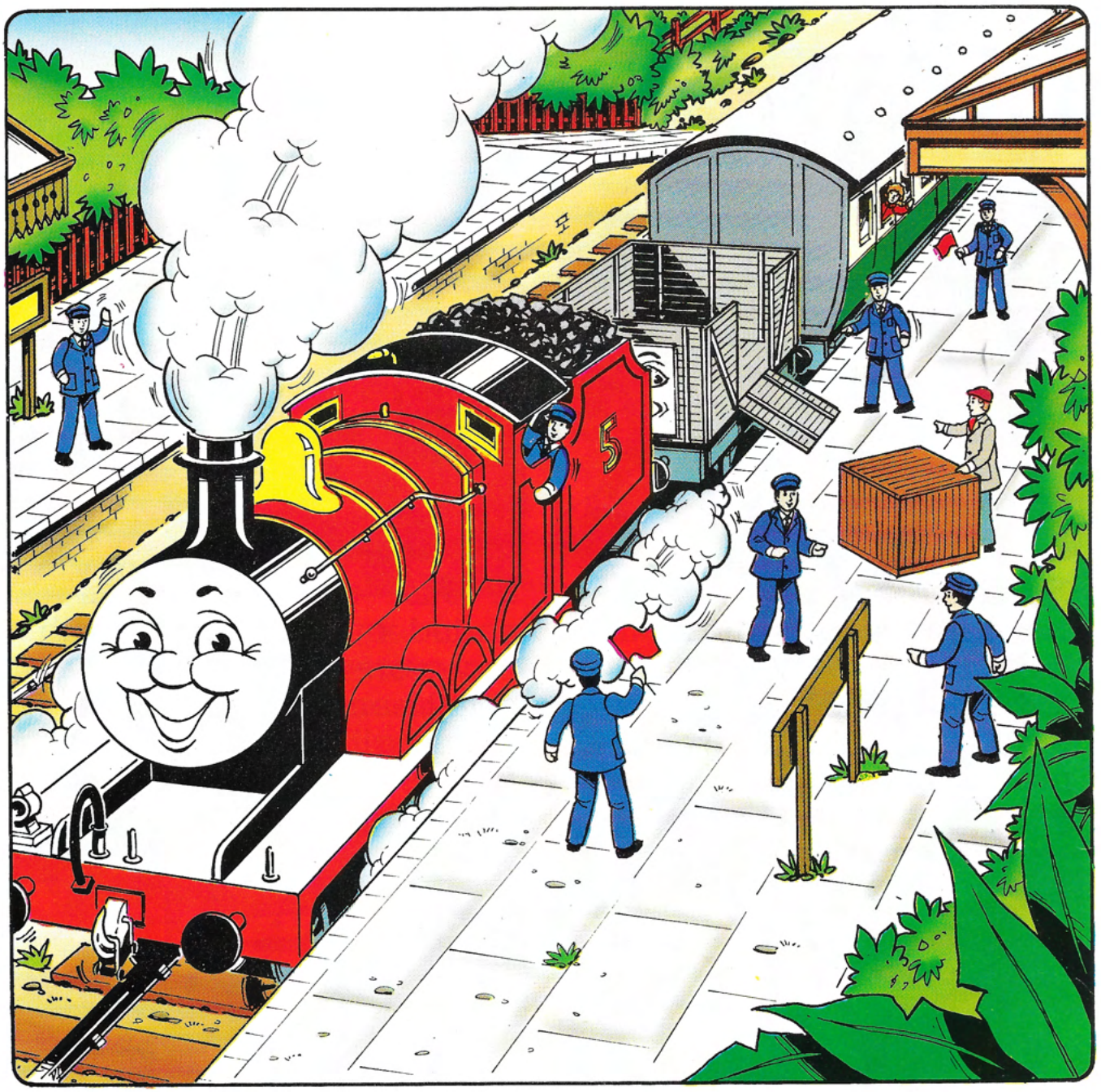


8. Just then James' truck called out. "I don't like this any more than the rest of you! "I've been dragged round by James all day and I'm ready for a rest!"



9. "Hmph!" grumbled James. "Really!" said the coaches. "A dirty truck!" After a lot of fuss they were coupled to the truck and James pulled up at the Main Station platform.

10. The passengers got into the coaches, without taking much notice of James' truck. But there was one passenger who didn't get on. He had a very wide crate.



11. "I'm sorry," said the guard. "But I'm afraid your crate is too big to fit through the guard's van door. We cannot carry it." "But I must take it with me," said the man. Meanwhile the other engines were waiting. They did not want to be delayed. James had an idea. "Couldn't we put the crate in my truck?" he asked his driver.

12. James's driver spoke to the guard. "This is not the usual way to carry passenger goods!" laughed the guard. "But it's a good idea". They loaded the wide crate into James' truck. The man got onto his coach and everyone was happy to be on their way. James was glad to be stuck to a dirty truck after all.

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and Gordon's washday!